

Minutes of BRAA Board Meeting 7/16/2020

This meeting took place at the Moose Lodge 1470 in Christiansburg

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

Those present:

1. Charlotte Chan
2. Jesse Burgardt
3. Alisa Colpitts
4. Teri Hoover
5. Sue Hossack
6. Ava Howard
7. Jeri Nemiro (by Google Meet)
8. Betty Moore
9. Gerri Young

Lois Stephens, Linda Correll, Jeanette Bowker, and Robi Sallee were unable to attend.

Charlotte introduced the new Board members: Jeri Nemiro (Community Galleries), Jesse Burgardt (NR Biennial), Ava Howard (Membership)

Secretary's report: Sue Hossack

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Workshops: Alisa Colpitts

Deli paper play date: (this is replacing the Danie Janov workshop). The website has details and registration online ready to go, the membership needs to be informed of it – Alisa to send out an email. Because of Covid-19 restriction we will limit attendees to 20, with a wait list if necessary. One person per table, spaced out. Mask and gloves will be required. After discussion it was decided that BRAA would supply table covers. Non-members will be welcome to register.

The Keiko Tanabe workshop in October is still going on as planned. It was scheduled to be held at the Moose Lodge 1470, but we may have to consider other options since the Lodge may be needed by the Montgomery County Board of Elections for an Early Voting location. A public hearing is scheduled for Aug 24th, so we may not know until then. Alisa reported that it has been set up for online payments, and demonstrated how easy it is by registering and paying by credit card.

Treasurer's report: Charlotte Chan (for Jeanette Bowker)

Charlotte presented the treasurer's report in lieu of Jeanette.. We have a total of \$34,577.44 in the bank account. We also have \$23,196.03 in a Money Market fund for total assets of \$57,773.47. See Appendix for full numbers

The treasurer's report was approved.

Membership Chair replacement

Ref Bedia has resigned from the committee after declining to share the membership details files with the board. Ava Howard has accepted the position and will work with Sue for handover. Sue has updated the membership spreadsheet for easier use, and has removed the need to use Google contacts as the membership repository. She reported that at least 6 members had been left off the rolls, but this has been corrected. The Shared contacts may still be useful to email separate groups of people such as all approved artists. Sue has developed a list of all the approved artists from various places, such as Raf's files, Nancy's files, contacts and others.

Community Galleries: Charlotte Chan

Charlotte reported that some galleries had been changed out, while others are still closed for Covid-19 reasons. The Galleries that have not been changed over are The Artful Lawyer, Glade Church, and Warm Hearth.

Alisa and Geri now have keys to The Artful Lawyer downstairs storage area. Mari Collier still has art work in place there. James Creekmore of the law firm is planning on meeting with the board in August. Ruth will check on Monday with Long and Foster.

Newsletter: Gerri Young (for Lois Stephens)

There are boxes of historical documents at the Artful Lawyer which Gerri and Lois have been going through. The plan was to provide some history of the organization for the newsletter, but there was too much to go through before the next edition. Instead, members have been asked to provide some articles on what they have been doing during the Covid-19 restrictions. Gerri is looking for advice from an archivist in Floyd to complete the history research.

Meetings

Our July lunch meeting was held at the picnic shelter in Heritage Park, and was well attended. Matt Gentry gave a talk on becoming a Plein Air painter. This was the first in-

person meeting since the pandemic started. Robi was not present to give further details of upcoming meeting.

Public Art: Sue Hossack (for Linda Correll)

Linda has developed an online form for organizations to request sponsorship for public art projects. She is going to 'beta-test' it with the school in Pulaski that is looking at doing an outdoor mural. She has been working on the Simply Elemental exhibit, which had to be done online this year. Charlotte brought up that the Downtown Blacksburg Inc (DBI) had requested entries for a mural in Blacksburg. The winner, Ellen Morris happens to be a BRAA member. However the DBI is now asking BRAA to co-sponsor the mural for \$1000 to cover the stipend for the artist. It was felt by the board, that we should not have to underwrite this project, but we would be willing to give \$100 and the other downtown merchants can give \$100 each also.

The motion to give \$100 to DBI was proposed by Alisa, seconded by Sue, passed by the board.

Bylaws:

Since the last board meeting, the bylaws have been accepted by a vote of 48-1 from the membership. They are now online including the date of acceptance.

Handbook Update: Sue Hossack (for Linda Correll)

Most sections of the handbook have been completed, but Linda requested that they are written as though they are instructions to someone taking over the task, rather than talking about what has been done in the past. Sue is updating the Membership handbook section for Ava, since Raf did not do it.

Shared Drive Demo: Sue Hossack

Sue gave a demo on how to access the Shared Drive, how to access the board portal, and how to collaborate on documents. She will also provide a print tutorial to send to everyone on the board.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Alisa asked if we could get an Association debit/credit card to be used for such things as workshop supplies. She also asked if we could set up online banking to make it

easier to deposit checks. Since Charlotte and Gerri need to go to the bank to change signatures on the account, they will inquire if this can be done. We would also benefit from setting up a Paypal account, in addition to Square. They can be linked so we could accept Paypal as well as credit card transactions.

Gerri handed over the key to the post office box to Charlotte. Jeanette has not been able to get to the post office often (downtown Blacksburg) because of the pandemic, so Sue has set up online registration to make it easier for us to know when someone wants to join or renew (we will get notification by email, then get the check at a later date). While discussing this it was proposed that we consider online payments for membership, since we are using it for the workshop. Sue has it ready to go (using Square), and it will be no more extra work for Jeanette, she will get a spreadsheet with all the payment details, like she does for art items from the gift shop at The Artful Lawyer

Charlotte asked if the board thought we should allow members to advertise non-art-related items. Joe Scarpesi for example has asked to announce a birding tour he is leading in Cuba. The board agreed that only art-related items should be allowed

Sue asked how we should handle various emails that go to the members – because all the board has access to send emails we have had issues where the same message gets sent by several people. Obviously every committee will send out announcement regarding their own committees (e.g. workshop sends out information on upcoming workshops, membership sends renewal requests, newsletter sends the newsletter or asks for articles), but how should we handle requests or information from members? We have an info@blacksburgart.org email, so we should use that to gather information from members, and then the President can determine who should send it out.

Action Items

- Request credit/debit card and online banking – Charlotte/Gerri [Done]
- Announce workshops to members- Alisa [Done]
- Inform members about info@blacksburgart.org – Sue [Done]
- Research cheapest table covers and deli papers – Ava [Done]
- Purchase table covers and deli papers- Alisa/Charlotte [Done]

The meeting was closed at 3:53pm

Respectfully Submitted

Sue Hossack

BRAA Secretary

Appendix A Treasurer's report

July 9, 2020

BRAA Checking \$30,393.19

Nadine Allen 200.00

New River Biennial 3,984.25

Total Checking 34,577.44

CapitalOne MMF 23,196.03

Grand Total Assets 57,773.47

Submitted by Jeanette Bowker

Treasurer